

**HARNES, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.**

Attorneys and Counselors  
5445 Corporate Drive, Suite 400  
Troy, Michigan 48098-2683  
Phone: 248-641-1600  
Fax: 248-641-0270

St. Louis, MO • Washington, D.C.

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FOR: Examiner James M. Sanders

COMPANY: USPTO

FAX No.: 571-273-7007

PHONE: 571-270-7007

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FROM: Robert M. Siminski - 4836-000012/US

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**COMMENTS:**

Serial No: 10/516,630  
Filing Date: May 12, 2005  
Inventor: Christian Kotter  
Examiner: James M. Sanders  
Art Unit: 1791  
Title: Three-Dimensional Molded Part Having a Leather-Like Surface

**Enclosures:**

1. Request for Interview (2 pgs)

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**PATENT****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/516,630  
Filing Date: May 12, 2005  
Art Unit: 1791  
Examiner: James M. Sanders  
Applicant: KÖTTER, Christian, et al.  
Title: THREE-DIMENSIONAL MOLDED PART HAVING A  
LEATHER-LIKE SURFACE  
Attorney Docket: 4836-000012/NP

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW AFTER FINAL**  
**PURSUANT TO §713.09 OF THE M.P.E.P.**

Sir:

Pursuant to §713.00 of the Manual Patent Examining Procedure, Applicant seeks to conduct an interview after final for the present application in an effort to expedite prosecution.

In this regard, Applicant submits that the use of suspending agents in a pulp containing leather fibers as required under the present invention differs from MacKay. The suspending agents are utilized to maintain the short fibers in solution without precipitation. It is critical to suspend shorter fibers under the present invention in order to obtain a consistent leather-like surface. In contrast, MacKay teaches the use of acids, etc., to cause precipitation of the binder in order to wet the fibers.

While MacKay is silent as to the length of fibers, it can be assumed, based on the interest in precipitating the binder onto the fibers under MacKay that longer fibers are being utilized. Applicant proposes to amend claim 18 to clarify that the leather fibers of the pulp have a length of from 0.2 to 3mm as opposed to the presently claimed range of 0.1 to 15mm. The Buresh reference which has been cited along with MacKay teaches fibers of a length between 0.25 to 1 inch in length. A length of 0.25 inches equates to 6.35 mm which would be outside of the proposed amended claim range. Interestingly, Buresh also comments that the use of fibers outside of the 0.25 to 1 inch range result in product that has numerous drawbacks.

As for the Dimiter reference, this document teaches reconstituting pulverized leather particles to obtain products having a leather-like finish. Such particles have a upper limit range of 100 mesh which would correspond to 0.1mm. Thus, even if Dimiter were broadly interpreted as disclosing the use of "leather fibers", they still fall outside the proposed range.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant seeks an after final interview.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 3, 2009

By: \_\_\_\_\_



Robert M. Siminski  
Reg. No. 36,007

Harness, Dickey & Pierce  
P. O. Box 828  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303  
(248) 641-1600